Having above indicated a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it will occur to those skilled in the art that modifications and alternatives can be practiced within the spirit of the invention. It is accordingly intended to define the scope of the invention only as indicated in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In a computer system not utilizing a global database, but rather utilizing a collection of local databases, none of which serve as a central collection point, in which files are stored and modified at memory devices at multiple locations, apparatus for permitting the creation of new versions of a file at one location without knowledge of whether conflicting versions are created at another location, comprising:

a portable memory device transportable between locations on which a file version is stored; and,

means for safely permitting reconciling different versions of a file transported from location to location on said portable memory device, said reconciling means including

means at first and second locations for generating a log entry at its respective location, each of said log entries including a time stamp for the version of said file on said portable memory device at said location, said timestamp serving as a unique identifier regardless of the time indicated thereby, thus to create a history of version creation and modification for said file at said first and second locations;

means at said first location for entering said log entry into said portable memory device;

means at said second location for reading out the log entry on said portable memory device and for combining the log entry from said portable memory device and a log entry at said second location so as to compare both modified versions and respective timestamps to indentify missing entries or confliction updates represented by different timestamps and thus the existence of different versions of said file;

means at said second location and upon said identification of different versions of said file for determining actions necessary to synchronize said different versions; and,

means at said second location for determining if such synchronizing action would result in loss of information, whereby combination of all versions of said file may be safely accomplished at said second location.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, and further including means for performing the determined synchronizing actions by copying or deleting files.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, and further including means for notifying the user if said synchronizing actions would result in loss of information.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, and further including means for purging obsolete log entries by purging a first entry if there exists a subsequent entry for the same file and if that subsequent entry is available at all other locations.

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